

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1 - 29 (cancelled).

30. (currently amended) An absorbent sanitary article for absorbing body fluids which comprises a matrix containing metallic silver and a fiber having an outer surface including depressions, characterized in that the silver is chemically or physically attached exclusively to the surface including the surface in the depressions and cannot be flushed away from the fiber in use of the sanitary article.

Claims 31 - 48 (cancelled).

49. (currently amended) A process for producing an absorbent sanitary article for absorbing body fluids which comprises a matrix containing metallic silver, comprising the steps of disposing a fiber having an outer surface that includes depressions in said matrix and binding said metallic silver exclusively to said fiber surface including the surface in the

depressions so that the metallic silver cannot be flushed away from the fiber surface in use of the sanitary article.

Claims 50 - 63 (cancelled).